

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 17, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire September 17, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 3 and 8 are cancelled, and Claims 1, 4, 6, and 9-10 are amended. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12 are now pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

At paragraph 1 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 9 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Based upon careful consideration of the Examiner's comments, Applicant has amended Claim 9 to parallel Claims 1 and 6, comport with the statute, and to enhance readability.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

At paragraph 2 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,622,206 B1 to Kanamaru *et al.* (*Kanamaru*). Applicant respectfully traverse these objections as applied to the pending claims.

With respect to the now-amended Claim 1, nothing in *Kanamaru* teaches nor suggests checking a second condition that compares a logical block address of a preceding write command with a logical block address of said write command to ascertain whether or not a position of said logical block address of said write command overlaps a position of said logical block address of said preceding write command; and returning a command complete signal to said external device in response to said write command if either said first condition or said second condition is satisfied. The amended portions of Claim 1 were previously indicated as allowable by the Examiner within now-cancelled Claim 3.

With respect to the now-amended Claim 6, nothing in *Kanamaru* teaches nor suggests a second logic circuit utilized for checking a second condition, wherein said second condition determines a relationship between a position of a logical block address of said write command stored in said command memory and a position of a logical block address of a new write

command. The amended portion of Claim 6 was previously indicated as allowable by the Examiner within now-cancelled Claim 8.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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